



## HOOK

### **ACTION SONG: FATHER ABRAHAM**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ASXowiv3FAC>

### **BLIND FAITH**

Today, I brought a blindfold. What if I were to ask one of you to put on this blindfold and find your way to the back of the room and bring a book (or any other object) back to me? How do you think you might feel? Would you be worried that you might bump into something and hurt yourself? Would you be afraid that others might laugh at you when you went the wrong direction?

What if I said that I would go with you and hold your hand? You trust me, don't you? I will be with you every step. How does that make you feel?

Who would like to try it? (Choose a child.) OK, let's go.



## STORY (Genesis 12:1-9; Genesis 22)

### INTRO

We will be going through some of the men & women in the Bible, some “heroes” of the Bible.

This Sunday, we’re meeting someone whom most of you would be familiar with — **Abraham**.

### ABRAHAM FOLLOWED GOD

Abraham was a rich man who owned many sheep and cattle. He had a beautiful wife, but they did not have any children for a long, long time.

One day, God came to Abraham and told him, *“I want you to pack up all your things and leave your home! I want you to go to the land I will give you. I promise that I will bless you and make your family great. I will be with you in all you do, and because of you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”*  
(Genesis 12:1-3; Acts 7:2-3)

Wow! That was quite a promise!

But a scary one too. It meant that Abraham would have to leave the place he knew and go to a place he didn't know. He would have to trust God that everything would be okay.

But that's just what Abraham did.

He took his wife (Sarah) and his nephew (Lot). They packed up everything they owned in the land of Haran and moved to Canaan, the land God promised to lead him to.

It couldn't have been an easy move to make. He was already 75 years old. And Canaan was a long, long way away from Haran!

But Abraham knew that God was Someone who could be trusted. So he followed Him.

**ABRAHAM: FATHER OF FAITH**

When Abraham was 99 years old, God made a covenant (promise) with him.

*"I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you."*

(Genesis 17:7)

If Abraham walked faithfully and blamelessly before God, God promised to greatly increase his numbers and give him the land of Canaan as the Promised Land for his descendants.

The sign of this promise was circumcision. So everyone in Abraham's household, including his servants, had to be circumcised. Circumcision involves the cutting off of flesh, which illustrates that Abraham's family would be separated from sin and the influences of those living around them and be a holy people, God's own special people.

**ABRAHAM: FATHER OF MANY**

God had changed Abram's name to Abraham, which means "Father of Many". God had promised Abraham that he would be a father of many nations when Abraham was 75 years old. But after 25 long years (Abraham was 100 years old and his wife was 90), they still had no children.

But God had promised. And God keeps His promises. And Sarah conceived a son named Isaac (which means "laughter"). And today, as we have sung, Father Abraham has many sons — the Jews have grown into a great people; from Isaac came Jacob, who had 12 sons (12 tribes of Israel) to the nation of Israel.

**ABRAHAM: FRIEND OF GOD**

Perhaps the most well-known story of Abraham was of God asking him to sacrifice his only, long-awaited son, Isaac, and how God provided a lamb instead to take his place (Genesis 22 — tell the story in your own creative way).

Because Abraham believed God, it was accounted to him for righteousness and he was called the friend of God.



# MEN & WOMEN OF THE BIBLE: ABRAHAM

## POINTING TO JESUS

As we can see from the life of Abraham, following God is not always easy.

Sometimes it is very inconvenient. Imagine packing your whole life up and going into the unknown.

Sometimes it takes a long, long time to see the results. Just as God promised Abraham many descendants — as many as the stars in the skies and the sands on the earth — but he still had to wait many, many years to see the birth of his son, Isaac.

And sometimes it's just crazy difficult. Like the time God tested Abraham by asking him to sacrifice his beloved son, Isaac.

But God tested Abraham not because He was cruel. He wanted to show Abraham a glimpse, a picture, of the ultimate hero of all.

God promised that one day, through Abraham, He will give the world a sacrifice to tell them how much He loves them.

God sent His Son, Jesus, to be born as a baby in this world. Like Abraham leaving his father's house, Jesus had to leave all the comforts of heaven to come to this fallen, wicked world.

Then God took His son, His only son, Jesus, whom He loves, and sacrificed Him as a burnt offering.

He put the cross on His back and made Him walk up the hill. Like the ram caught in the thorny bush, Jesus had a crown of thorns pressed on His brow as He took the punishment for our sin.

God provided Jesus, the Lamb of God. Jehovah Jireh!

And because of Jesus, we are all counted as descendants of Abraham and we all have the same blessings as Abraham and so much more! Thank you, Jesus!



## ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

### MEMORY VERSE

*"I will keep my promise to you and to your descendants in future generations as an everlasting covenant. I will be your God and the God of your descendants." (Genesis 17:7)*



## HOOK

### GAME: I SPY WITH MY LITTLE EYE

<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/parents/top-tips/play-i-spy>

### HOOK

Have you ever felt that nobody liked you?

Maybe some other kids don't like you because you are different — the clothes you wear, or the way you speak. Maybe they think you are weird. Maybe they tell their friends not to be your friend. Maybe they don't want to share their toys with you or to play with you. Maybe it's because you once did something wrong that made them unhappy.

It's tough when you feel nobody likes you. It's tough when you think you are not good enough. You can feel lonely, or sad, or angry. Sometimes we all feel this way.

But do you know that there's Someone who likes you ALL the time. He doesn't care about what you wear, or how your talk or what you've done. Even if you made other people really, really mad. He's there for you. And He loves you always.

What's His name? Jesus!



## STORY (Joshua 2)

Once upon a time, there was a woman called Rahab. She lived in a town called Jericho. People in the town did not like her very much. Because she did things that were not very good. (She was a prostitute).

One day, she met two men. They were Israelites from the desert. They wanted to find out some information about Jericho. They were spies.

Rahab let them into her house as it was night time and getting dark.

However, the king of Jericho heard that there were two spies in Rahab's house. So he sent men to find them.

The king's men came to Rahab's house and demanded that she bring the spies out.

But Rahab took the spies to the rooftop and hid them under some stalks of flax, a type of long-stemmed plant.

She told the king's men, *"Some men came to my house. I don't know where they were from. But they left in the evening before the city gate was closed."*

So the king's men quickly headed off to look for the spies.

After they left, Rahab went to the spies and said, *"I know that God has given you this land. Everyone here is afraid because we've all heard what God has done for you — drying up the Red Sea, winning battles. Your God is the real God!"*

Then Rahab made a bargain with the spies. *"Just as I have protected you, promise me that you will save me and my family when you take over this city — don't let us be killed."*

The spies agreed. *"If you don't tell anyone what we have been doing, we promise you that when the Lord gives u this land, we will treat you well."*

The city gates were closed, and the guards were looking for the spies. So Rahab let the men out of her window with a long red rope. It was a bit like Rapunzel and her long hair. The spies had to climb down the long red rope.

Then the spies told Rahab: *"When we come back, tie this red rope at your window. Get all your family members together in your house. And we promise you that you will all be safe."*

And the spies returned to Joshua and told him, *"We are sure that the Lord has given us the whole country. All the people there are terrified of us."*

Later on, the spies did return, and Joshua and the Israelites did take over Jericho. And as promised, Rahab and her family were all saved!



# MEN & WOMEN OF THE BIBLE: RAHAB

Even though people in the town may not have liked Rahab because of her life and her past, but God still used her to help the Israelites. God still saved her and her family.

And more than that, God brought her into His own special people, and she lived together with the Israelites.

And do you know something special? Rahab is one of Jesus' great, great, great, great, great, great, great, great ... grandmother! She married an Israelite (Salmon), and had a son called Boaz (remember him?), who was the great, grandfather of King David.

*Salmon was the father of Boaz (whose mother was **Rahab**).*

*Boaz was the father of Obed (whose mother was Ruth).*

*Obed was the father of Jesse.*

*Jesse was the father of King David.*

*David was the father of Solomon (whose mother was Bathsheba, the widow of Uriah).*

(Matthew 1:4-6)

What an honour for someone who had an imperfect past! Because of her faith in God, she was accepted into His family.

So no matter how you feel today, know that if "God likes Rahab, God likes me too ... always."

## POINTING TO JESUS

Just like the blood of the lamb over the doorposts of the Israelites in Egypt protected them from the angel of death, the red cord outside Rahab's window protected her and her family from being killed.

In the same way, when we believe in Jesus, the blood of Jesus covers us and protects us from the punishment of sin and death.







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# MEN & WOMEN OF THE BIBLE: RAHAB

## ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

### MEMORY VERSE

*"The LORD has surely given the whole land into our hands." (Joshua 2:24)*



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# MEN & WOMEN OF THE BIBLE: ESTHER

## HOOK

### **GAME: HANGMAN**

Begin the class by playing hangman. Use words like “beautiful, kingdom, queen, Jews, and honour”. Let this lead you into the story. Tell the children that all of these words and the gallows will be in the story.



## STORY (ESTHER)

### INTRO

The book of Esther is an unusual book because God's name is not mentioned once in the entire book. Even so, the book clearly outlines the power of God over the plans of men.

It tells the story of a beautiful young Jewish girl, an orphan girl who became the queen of Persia.

### STORY

Because they kept disobeying God, the Jews, God's people, had been sent into exile to Babylon. Later the Persian empire overthrew the Babylonian empire. King Xerxes (sometimes called Ahasuerus) was the ruler of Persia. That meant that he was king over the biggest kingdom in the world at that time.

Even though King Xerxes was rich and powerful, his wife, Queen Vashti, dishonoured him in front of all his friends. That made King Xerxes very angry, and he banished her from his presence.

The king became sad because he did not have a queen. His helpers searched the whole kingdom to find the most beautiful girls so the king could choose a new queen. The girls were brought to the palace. The girls were given the best makeup and perfumes. They spent a whole year learning how to be a queen.

One of the girls was a beautiful young Jewish girl called Hadassah, also known as Esther. Esther's family/ancestors were taken from Jerusalem as slaves/prisoners of war into exile. That's why she ended up in Persia. Esther's father and mother had died a long time ago. Her cousin, Mordecai had raised her and treated her like a daughter. Mordecai taught Esther how to love God.

When it came time to choose the new queen, the king chose Esther. Esther was a good queen. The king did not believe in God, but Esther did. She never forgot her cousin Mordecai and she never forgot that she was one of God's children. Sometimes it was hard for Esther because the other Jews were treated badly. They did not have the riches that Esther had. Esther tried to use the good things that God had given her to help other people.

One time Mordecai helped the king. Mordecai heard that someone was trying to kill the king. He told Esther about it and she told the king. The plan was stopped. Mordecai saved the king's life! This was very special so it was written about in the king's record book.

Another man became famous in the kingdom. His name was Haman. The king thought Haman was a good man so he ordered everyone in the kingdom to bow down to Haman. But Haman was a bad man and he hated the Jews. Mordecai would not bow down to Haman. Haman was so angry that he planned a way to kill Mordecai and all of the Jews.



## MEN & WOMEN OF THE BIBLE: ESTHER

Haman told the king that the Jews were bad. Finally, the king believed him and made a law. The law said that people could kill the Jews and not get in trouble. Haman was glad. He had a huge gallows built and he planned to have Mordecai hanged.

When Mordecai heard about the plan he told Esther. *"Please, Esther, you have to save our people! Maybe God knew this would happen and that is why he let you be Queen."*

Esther was very frightened. She had never told the king that she was a Jew. Would he be mad at her like he was mad at the first queen? No one was allowed to go to the king unless he asked them first. Even the queen could not go to the king without an invitation. If anyone went to the king without an invitation they could be put to death. The only thing that could change this was if the king pointed his sceptre at the person who came to him.

Then Mordecai told her: *"Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"*

Finally, Esther decided to go to the king. When she came to him she was very frightened. Would she be put to death? Then the king pointed his sceptre at her and told her to come to him. The king liked Esther. He told her she could have anything she wanted.

Esther had a plan. She told the king that she wanted to have a special feast just for the two of them and for Haman. Esther and the king planned the feast for the very next day.

The king went to bed that night but he could not sleep. Sometimes reading a book helps you sleep. So the king asked one of his helpers to bring one of the old record books. The helper brought the book and began to read to the king about things that had happened long ago. He read about the time Mordecai had saved the king's life! The king got very excited. He wanted to do something special for Mordecai.

The king called for Haman to come into his chamber. Haman was happy because he thought the king was going to do something nice for him. The king asked Haman what should be done for someone who deserved honour. Haman thought the king was about to honour him so he said: *"That person should be given a royal robe and one of the king's horses. They should be led through the streets so everyone knows that the king likes them."*

*"That is a great idea,"* said the king. *"Go and do those things for Mordecai!"*

Haman was shocked! He could not believe that the king liked Mordecai. Now, Haman knew he was in big trouble. The king liked Mordecai, but Haman was trying to kill Mordecai. What would the king do when he found out?

The next day Haman went to the special feast with Esther and the King. The worst thing that Haman imagined happened. Esther told the king that someone was trying to kill the good man, Mordecai,



# MEN & WOMEN OF THE BIBLE: ESTHER

who had saved the king's life. The king was very angry. He said that the man should be put to death. Haman was hung on the very gallows that he had built for Mordecai.

Then Esther told the king that she was a Jew. He was very sorry that he had made the law that Jews could kill the Jews. Even the king could not change the law. Then Esther asked the king to make another law – a law that said the Jews could fight back if someone tried to kill them. The king knew that this was a good idea so he made the law. From then on, if someone tried to hurt the Jews then the Jews fought back. Soon, no one wanted to hurt the Jews anymore.

Mordecai and all of the Jews were saved because of Esther.

## **GOD IS ALWAYS WORKING BEHIND THE SCENES**

God had a plan for Esther, to save a whole nation. To the Jews in exile, it might have felt like God was absent. But God was with Esther when she lost her parents, and she was raised by her wise uncle. It wasn't by mistake that Esther had *"a lovely figure and was beautiful"* (Esther 2:7). It was no coincidence that God raised Esther — an orphan, a prisoner of war, a foreigner — up to be queen at a time when the people of God were at threat of being killed. God was arranging every single detail for His glory.

What is God's plan for you? Why don't you ask Him?

You may not know what it is now, but God is always working in the background in all our lives, even when it doesn't seem like it.

## **GOD PLACED US WHERE WE ARE FOR A REASON**

When Mordecai asked Esther to approach the King and beg for mercy and plead for the Jewish people, Esther knew it could mean certain death. But Mordecai reminded her that God placed her in the palace for a reason — to make a difference. *"And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"* (Esther 4:14)

God has placed us exactly where we are today. We can make an impact from exactly where we are today. For us, we should not look at our own strength, abilities and influence. It is God's plan which He will carry out with His power. We just partner God in what He is doing, in our lives, our families, our country and beyond.



### POINTING TO JESUS

Esther's situation looked bleak, as did the future of her people. Yet throughout the Old Testament, God promised that the Messiah/Saviour would come from Jewish lineage. Was God wrong? No. Regardless of man's plans, God has the final say because He is sovereign. Jesus was born into this world, to take the punishment of sin and to give new eternal life to all who would believe in Him.

Esther was raised to make a difference for such a time as this.

We can make a difference for such a time as this too!

**Resources:** [choose an appropriate video]

Little Big Heroes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INRq93fnMJY>

IShare: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qV\\_av5ZXFu4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qV_av5ZXFu4)

Kids on the Move: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SaS\\_ePAjCvk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SaS_ePAjCvk)

Crossroads: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZXp41Npw\\_Uw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZXp41Npw_Uw)

Saddleback Kids: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Ea9cNApeZU>



## ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

### MEMORY VERSE

*"And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"* (Esther 4:14)

### CRAFT

Related craft with the words: *For such a time as this!*

### HUDDLE TIME

Break into small groups to share and pray for each other.



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# MEN & WOMEN OF THE BIBLE: MOSES (Pt 1)

## HOOK

### **BASKET GAME**

Prepare a big basket and get kids to throw various items into it.

Talk about how baskets are useful to keep things ... including babies, as we will learn about in today's story.





## STORY: GOD SAVED MOSES (Exodus 1-2:10)

### INTRO

How many of you remember Joseph? Joseph was sold as a slave to Egypt. He was unjustly thrown into prison. Then God raised him to become Governor of Egypt, and he saved the world from starvation.

Because of Joseph, Jacob's whole family — about 70 in total — moved to Egypt to escape the famine, and they stayed there for many, many years.

Then, God's people had to go through lots of suffering. But God never forgot them. He raised up someone special to save them. But first, He saved that someone special from death.

### STORY

(Props may be used to make story-telling interactive)

Joseph, his brothers, and all that generation died. But their descendants became exceedingly fruitful and increased greatly in numbers (like the stars in the skies and the sands on the shore).

Then a new king who didn't know Joseph came to power in Egypt. He said, *"These Israelites are so numerous and strong that they are a threat to us. In case of war they might join our enemies in order to fight against us, and might escape from the country. We must find some way to keep them from becoming even more numerous."*

So the Egyptians made the Israelites their slaves and subjected them to hard labour. But the more they oppressed the Israelites, the more they increased in number.

Pharaoh also ordered the Egyptian midwives to kill the Israelites' baby boys. However, the midwives did not obey and told the king that the babies were born before they had a chance to do anything.

Finally, the king ordered all of the Israelites' newborn baby boys to be thrown into the Nile river.

One of the Israelite women — a descendant of Joseph's brother, Levi — had a baby boy. She tried to hide him for three months, but as he grew older, she knew she couldn't hide him forever.

So she took a reed basket, covered it with tar to make it watertight, put the baby in and placed it in the tall grass at the edge of the river.

The baby's sister stood at a distance to watch and see what would happen to him.

The king's daughter came down to the river to bathe. Suddenly she noticed the basket in the grass and sent her servant to get it.

She opened it and saw the baby crying and felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said.



# MEN & WOMEN OF THE BIBLE: MOSES (Pt 1)

The baby's sister came out of hiding and asked her, *"Shall I call a Hebrew woman to nurse the baby for you?"*

"Yes, please," said the princess.

So the girl brought her mother to meet the princess, and the princess paid the mother to take care of the baby for her!

When the child was older, the princess adopted him as her own son. "I pulled him out of the water, so I shall name him Moses." ("Moses" means "pull out").

## **GOD RAISED A GREAT NATION WITHIN EGYPT**

God sent Joseph to Egypt so he could prepare for the famine. God brought 70 of Jacob's family to Egypt to save them from the famine. And in Egypt, Abraham's family kept growing and growing.

Even though the Pharaoh tried to oppress with hard labour and slavery, their numbers kept growing.

Even though Pharaoh ordered all the babies to be killed, it didn't stop them from multiplying.

## **GOD SAVED MOSES TO ACCOMPLISH HIS PURPOSES**

Despite Pharaoh's order to kill all Israelites' baby boys, God saved Moses in a miraculous way — allowing his own mother to take care of him and letting him be adopted into the princess' family! This was all in preparation for the great plan God had for Moses' life.

Do you know ...

When Jesus was born, King Herod ordered all baby boys to be killed too. King Herod heard that there was a prophecy that a new king would be born, and he was afraid so he tried to get rid of all boys below 2 years old. But an angel appeared to Jesus' father, Joseph, in a dream, telling him to bring Jesus and his mother to Egypt. So Jesus was brought to Egypt and hid there until it was safe to return. (Matthew 2:8-20)

## **POINTING TO JESUS**

It seemed like a hopeless and dark time — both when Moses and Jesus was born — but through the hopelessness and darkness, God was putting His plan in motion to raise up someone special to deliver His people from slavery.

As we look at the life of Moses, we see how it's a picture (or foreshadow) of God's bigger and greater plan of salvation through the life and death of Jesus, many thousands of years later!



## ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

### CRAFT

Related Baby Moses craft or activity with the words:

"God protected baby Moses to save His people. God protected baby Jesus to save the whole world."



### HUDDLE TIME

Break into small groups to share and pray for each other.



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# MEN & WOMEN OF THE BIBLE: MOSES (Pt 2)

HOOK



## STORY: GOD CALLED MOSES (Exodus 2:12 - 3)

### INTRO

Last week we learnt about how the Israelites were living in Egypt as slaves.

The Pharaoh had ordered all Hebrew baby boys to be killed.

But one a little baby was saved from death.

This little baby was called Moses. And he was adopted by the Princess and raised in Egypt as a prince.

### STORY

Summarise/Paraphrase Exodus 2:12 – 3.

(Props may be used to make story-telling interactive)

Main points:

- One day, when Moses had grown up, he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew slave. Moses defended the slave and killed the Egyptian.
- Fearing for his life, Moses ran away from Egypt and went to live in the Midian desert.
- He married Zipporah and worked as a shepherd.
- One day, while tending to the sheep, he saw a bush on fire. Strange thing was the bush didn't burn up.
- Moses went over to check on it.
- God called him by name. "Moses! Moses" and told him not to come nearer and to take off his sandals because he is on holy ground.
- Moses was afraid and hid his face.
- God told Moses He had heard his people crying in Egypt. And He has come to rescue them. And He was sending Moses to deliver the people from slavery.
- "Who am I?" Moses asked. After all, he was a wanted man in Egypt. An ex-prince. A shepherd. An 80-year-old man.
- God answered: "I will be with you."
- Moses asked, "Who are you? What should I tell the Israelites when they ask me your name?"
- God answered, "**I AM WHO I AM**. Tell the Israelites, '**I AM** has sent me to you. The Lord, God of your fathers, God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (whom we've learned about before), has sent me to you. This is my name forever, from generation to generation.'"



# MEN & WOMEN OF THE BIBLE: MOSES (Pt 2)

## OUR GOD

He is personal: He calls us by name just as He called Moses by name — *“Moses, Moses”*.

He is a Covenantal God: He is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, keeping His promises and covenant with Abraham that his family will be a great nation.

He cares: He sees, He hears, and He is concerned ... whether for the Israelites or for you and me. When we are sad and trouble and think no one cares, remember that God cares and loves you very much.

He acts: He came to rescue the Israelites and bring them out of Egypt. He is always with us to help us and work all things out for good for us, even when we may not realise it.

## GOD IS THE I AM

What does that mean?

It means God is God. He existed before the beginning of time. He is not created by anybody. He is the source of life and He never changes.

God needs no explanation. No description. No identification. Because He is God.

## JESUS IS THE I AM

When Jesus was on earth, He revealed Himself to the Jews as *“I AM”*.

e.g. in John 8:59, He said, *“Before Abraham was born, I AM.”*

Jesus was claiming to be God — the same God who spoke to Moses in the burning bush. And this made the Jews very angry, and they tried to kill him.

Through His teachings, Jesus often identified Himself as *“I AM”*: I AM the Bread of life, the light of the world, the door of the sheep, the Good Shepherd, the resurrection and the life, the way, truth and life, and the true vine.

Jesus is God. He is the source of life. He never changes!



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## MEN & WOMEN OF THE BIBLE: MOSES (Pt 2)

### **WE CAN COME BOLDLY**

God told Moses: *"Do not come any closer. Take off your sandals, for the place you are standing is holy ground."*

God is holy, and sinful man cannot come near Him. Moses was afraid of God and hid his face.

Today, because of Jesus, God gives us free access to Him. We can *"come boldly to the throne of grace" and "obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."* (Heb 4:16)

Thank you, Jesus. You are the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. You are the God of Moses. And you are the God of me!



Men and Women of the Bible

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# MEN & WOMEN OF THE BIBLE: MOSES (Pt 2)

## ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

### CRAFT

Related Burning Bush craft or activity with the words:

*Because of Jesus, the Great I AM, I can come boldly to God's throne of grace.*



### HUDDLE TIME

Break into small groups to share and pray for each other.





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# MEN & WOMEN OF THE BIBLE: MOSES (Pt 3)

HOOK



## STORY: LET MY PEOPLE GO! (Exodus 7-12)

### INTRO

So far, we learnt about how the Israelites were living in Egypt as slaves.

The Pharaoh had ordered all Hebrew baby boys to be killed.

But one a little baby was saved from death.

This little baby was called Moses. And he was adopted by the Princess and raised in Egypt as a prince.

When he grew up, Moses saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew slave, and he killed the Egyptian.

Then he ran to the desert to hide. He became a shepherd.

But God found him. And spoke to him through a burning bush. And told Moses to go back to Egypt and tell Pharaoh to let His people go.

### STORY

[Make this as interactive as possible]

So Moses went to Egypt. And he went to see Pharaoh and said,

*"God said, 'Let my people go!'"*

*"No!"*

*Every time you say this, put your arms on top of each other in front of you for "Pharaoh", and turn your head abruptly to one side and say "No" [get the kids to imitate]*

So God sent 10 plagues (curses) on Egypt — to punish the Egyptians and as a sign of His power so that everyone will know He is the real God.

#### Plague #1: **Water → Blood**

God told Moses to tell Aaron to stretch his hand over river and all the waters of Egypt — even in pails and jugs — turned into blood. The Egyptian magicians thought it was a trick and did the same.

*Idea: Prepare a large, clear pitcher — empty except for some red food colouring inconspicuously at the bottom. At the appropriate moment, pour in some water — and watch the water magically turn to "blood!"*

*"God said, 'Let my people go!'"*

*"No!"*

**Plague #2: Frogs**

God told Moses to tell Aaron to stretch his hand and rod over the streams and ponds and frogs came up all over Egypt. The Egyptian magicians thought it was a trick, and did the same.

*Idea: Hop 5x like frogs in their place*

*"God said, 'Let my people go!'"*

*"No!"*

**Plague #3: Lice**

God told Moses to tell Aaron to stretch his rod and hit the ground and all the dust of the land became lice! (kutu) The magicians tried to make the lice disappear, but they failed. They told Pharaoh, "God has done this!" But the king was stubborn.

*Idea: Throw some plastic bugs at the kids.*

*"God said, 'Let my people go!'"*

*"No!"*

**Plague #4: Flies**

Swarms of flies came all over Egypt, except for Goshen, where the Israelites lived. "Go offer sacrifices to your God!" the king cried. But later, he changed his mind.

*Idea: Buzz around as flies.*

*"God said, 'Let my people go!'"*

*"No!"*

**Plague #5: Livestock died**

Disease struck, and all the cattle, horses, donkeys, camels, oxen and sheep all died. But the Israelites' livestock did not die.

*Idea: Lie down and play dead.*

*"God said, 'Let my people go!'"*

*"No!"*



# MEN & WOMEN OF THE BIBLE: MOSES (Pt 3)

## Plague #6: Boils

Moses took ashes from the furnace and scattered it toward the sky. It became fine dust in all the land and caused boils to break out in sores on man and animal.

*Idea: Itchy, itchy. Scratch, scratch, scratch.*

*"God said, 'Let my people go!"*

*"No!"*

## Plague #7: Hail Storm

Moses stretched his hand out toward heaven and thunder and hail and fire came down all over Egypt.

*Idea: Ping pong balls, marshmallows, rolled up pieces of paper etc.*

*"God said, 'Let my people go!"*

*"No!"*

## Plague #8: Locusts

Moses stretched his hand over Egypt, and locusts came and ate every leaf on the land that was left after the hail.

*Idea: Hop, hop, hop like grasshoppers/locusts. Or give them green-colored (leaf) snacks to chomp on.*

*"God said, 'Let my people go!"*

*"No!"*

## Plague #9: Darkness

Moses stretched his hand up and there was darkness for 3 whole days. But the Israelites had light.

*Idea: Turn off lights.*

*"God said, 'Let my people go!"*

*"No!"*



# MEN & WOMEN OF THE BIBLE: MOSES (Pt 3)

## Plague #10: Death of Firstborn

Pharaoh was so stubborn and refused to let God's people go. So God brought the final and worst curse on the land — every firstborn child and animal in Egypt died that night. But in a miraculous way, the firstborns of Israel were spared (we'll learn more about it next week).

And finally, Pharaoh agreed to let God's people go.

## LESSON

### JESUS IS THE FIRSTBORN

The death of the firstborns in Egypt meant freedom for the Israelites.

The death of Jesus, the Firstborn over all creation (Col 1:15) — the One with no beginning, no end — meant freedom for all of us from sin and Satan's bondage.

### FROM PLAGUES TO BLESSINGS

Moses brought 10 plagues/curses to set the Israelites free.

Jesus died for our freedom and brought us into all God's blessings — life, freedom, blessings, healing, rest, God's love, acceptance etc etc. We have all of Jesus' inheritance as firstborn and heir of God.

**Rom 8:17** *Now if we are children, then we are heirs — heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ ...*

Thank you Jesus!



## ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

### SONG

Fun 10 plagues song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7GIKcJmNyNo>

Have the kids do the Pharaoh action and say “No” in between the verses.

### HUDDLE TIME

Break into small groups to share and pray for each other.



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# MEN & WOMEN OF THE BIBLE: MOSES (Pt 4)

HOOK



## STORY: PASSOVER (Exodus 12)

### INTRO

God's people (the children, and grandchildren and great-greatgreat-great-great grandchildren of a man named Israel/Jacob) had been in slavery in Egypt for 400 years. (That's a long time!)

God had promised that He was going to bring His people out of Egypt and send them to a new land ... a Promised Land. And NOW ... finally ... finally ... finally ... it was time.

God had already sent 9 plagues on Egypt, because the ruler of Egypt (Pharaoh) would NOT let God's people go. And NOW God was going to send one last plague ... one that was worse than all the other plagues had been. God said that after this plague, they would let His people go.

But what could be so bad? They had already had 9 plagues — They'd had flies and gnats, and sores and boils, and hail and darkness, and this and that ... and NONE of those things had been bad enough for Pharaoh to let God's people go.

*<put your hands on top of each other like Pharaoh and say "Let my people go!" and turn your head sharply to one side and "NO!" → Kids learnt this repetitive action last week.>*

So, what was there left for God to do to them?

Are you ready? (Because it is very sad ...)

### STORY

The 10th plague was that the firstborn child in each family would die ... (Wow! That is REALLY terrible. Can you imagine?) The firstborn child, in every family, would die ... all over Egypt. All in one night!

*<Who is the eldest/firstborn in your family, raise your hands!>*

But God Intervened for His People (the Israelites). This was a terrible, awful, scary thing. And the people of God (the children of Israel) KNEW that this terrible, awful, scary thing was going to happen. They did NOT want it to happen to them!

But God intervened for His People. God gave them a way to avoid this plague. God told them exactly what to do to keep anyone in their household from dying.

God gave His people instructions about what to do:

- Get a lamb (or small goat) for each family
- The lamb had to be perfect — no fault (broken bones or wounds or sickness)





## MEN & WOMEN OF THE BIBLE: MOSES (Pt 4)

- Slaughter the lamb at twilight (evening) of the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the month
- Take some of its blood and place it on the top and both sides of the doorframes of their house
- Roast the lamb — not raw, not boiled — and eat everything up that night
- Eat together with unleavened bread, a belt on waist, sandals on feet and staff in hand
- This was called the Passover Feast — God made that month the first month of the year to signify a new beginning for His Covenant people.

The blood on the doorpost would be sign of protection from the 10<sup>th</sup> plague.

*“I will see the blood and **pass over** you.”* Because the blood of the Passover Lamb was on the door of the house, the people inside would not die.

That night God passed through Egypt. Everywhere God saw the blood on the doorposts, He passed over that house.

But in every home where there was no blood on the door, the destroyer (destroying angel) killed the firstborn child.

The 10th plague killed every firstborn child in Egypt that night. From the Egyptian servant's eldest child to the Pharaoh's.

But in the homes of the children of Israel, no one died. Whoever had obeyed God's command and put the lamb's blood on their doorframes, the LORD passed over them and they were safe in their homes.

What do you think happened next? (*Wait for answers.*)

What happened when all the Egyptians suddenly realized that someone in their house was dead?

The Bible says that, *“... There was loud wailing in Egypt, for there was not a house without someone dead.”* Exodus 12:30

All of a sudden, the Egyptians realised it was another plague. They wanted the Israelites (God's people) to leave! Otherwise, they thought they might all die.

Pharaoh ordered Moses and Aaron to bring the people of Israel out of Egypt immediately that night. The Egyptians were so eager to have them leave that they gave the Israelites whatever they wanted — silver, gold, clothes etc.

And so the children of Israel (the Israelites) left Egypt! God had had brought His people out of slavery in Egypt. Just as He had promised. Now, they would head towards the Promised Land!



# MEN & WOMEN OF THE BIBLE: MOSES (Pt 4)

What happened on the very first Passover in Egypt was God's way of foretelling what He was going to do to set all of us free from slavery of sin and judgment of death!

## JESUS WAS THE PERFECT PASSOVER LAMB WHO TOOK AWAY OUR SIN

The lamb had to be perfect — no fault (broken bones or wounds or sickness).

No man is perfect — all have sinned — but only Jesus is the perfect One who could take all the punishment for our sin on our behalf.

His body was roasted for us. His blood was shed for us.

**John 1:29** *"Behold, The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!"*



## JESUS BLOOD PROTECTS US FROM JUDGMENT AND DEATH

God told the Israelites to take some of the lamb's blood and place it on the top and both sides of the doorframes of their house.

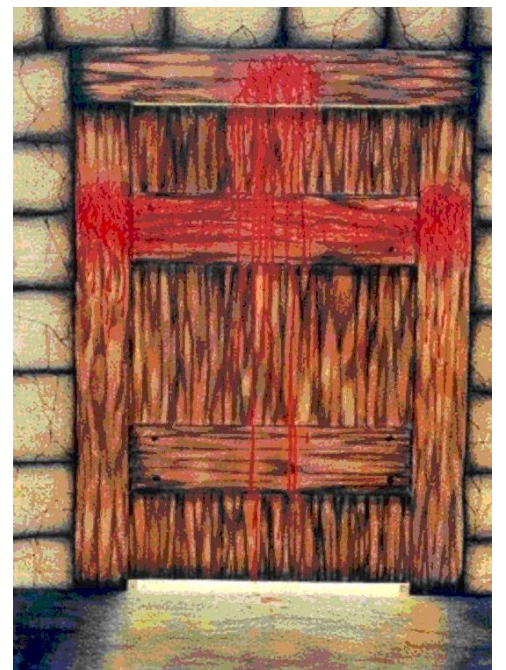
With the blood across both sides of the doorframe, and the blood dripping down from the top, what do you see? A cross!

Thousands of years before Jesus was born, God already gave a clue that He was going to set His people free with Jesus shedding His blood on the cross.

When Jesus died on the cross, He had a crown of thorns on His head, and pierced hands and feet. The places on the doorframe with the blood look like where His wounds would have been on the cross.

When the Israelites put their faith in God and placed the blood of the Passover Lamb on their doorframes, they were saved. They didn't face judgment like the rest of Egypt.

Thank you, Jesus!





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## MEN & WOMEN OF THE BIBLE: MOSES (Pt 4)

When we put our faith in Jesus (and what He did for us on the cross) we don't face judgment anymore. God sees Jesus' blood, which was shed for us, and we are saved; just like when He saw the Passover Lamb's blood and the Israelites were saved.

The children of Israel were brought out of slavery in Egypt that night, and when we believe in Jesus, we are brought out of slavery to sin.

(Source: <http://www.sunday-school-center.com/support-files/lg7-lesson-4-the-passover.pdf>)



## ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

### SONG

Fun 10 plagues song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7GIKcJmNyNo>

Have the kids do the Pharaoh action and say "No" in between the verses.

### MEMORY VERSE

**Exodus 12:13** *"And when I see the blood, I will pass over you ..."*

*"When I see the blood ..."* (Put right hand over eyes as if looking into distance)

*"I will pass over you."* (Make sweeping motion over head with left hand)

### PAINT THE DOORWAY

Paste strips of brown paper together to create a doorway.

(You can use this to explain the picture of the cross on the door)

Use red paint or chalk to represent blood.

Have the kids paint the "blood" onto the doorway, just like the people of Israel did when they were slaves in Egypt.

For younger kids, you can put the doorway on the floor first for painting before sticking it up on the wall.

You can also have individual door frames for each kid to stick and paint, and to write the memory verse on.

### HUDDLE TIME

Break into small groups to share and pray for each other.

**HOOK****PARTING THE WATERS**

<http://www.kidssundayschool.com/452/gradeschool/parting-the-waters.php>

**PEPPER AND WATER**

As you see, I have a small dish of plain water. Now I am going to take this pepper shaker and shake pepper all over the water. Can you see the pepper floating on top of the water? Now, I want you to watch what happens when I put my finger into the water and touch the bottom of the dish. Did you see that? What happened? You are right — nothing happened!

Next, I am going to take just a drop or two of this dishwashing detergent and put it on the tip of my finger. Now I will once again put my finger into the water and touch the bottom of the dish. Now, watch carefully. Wow! Did you see what happened? The pepper separated and moved to the sides of the dish! That is pretty amazing, isn't it?



## STORY: PARTING THE RED SEA (Exodus 13-14)

### INTRO

Our Bible lesson today is about an event that is far more amazing than the little trick I just showed you. In fact, it may be the most spectacular event in the entire Bible. We've been learning about how God sent Moses to tell Pharaoh to set his people free. The Israelites had been slaves in Egypt for over 400 years. Pharaoh refused to let God's people go until God sent 10 plagues upon Egypt. Finally, he let the Israelites go.

### STORY

When God led the people out of Egypt, He didn't lead them on the easiest road. He took them through the desert toward a big sea called the Red Sea. God led them by day with a big cloud, and He led them by night with a pillar of fire. The cloud helped shade the people from the hot desert sun during the day and the fire helped keep them warm at night. God took care of His people.

Meanwhile, back in Egypt, when the king realized that the Israelites were gone, he changed his mind and decided he wanted them back again. "What have we done, letting our slave labour go free?" So Pharaoh took his best men and chariots and started chasing the Israelites.

When the children of Israel saw the Egyptian army and chariots coming, they were afraid. They were trapped between the Egyptians and the Red Sea!

"We are going to die!!!" they cried.

But Moses said, *"Don't be afraid. Just stand still and watch the Lord save you today. The Egyptians you see today will never be seen again. The Lord himself will fight for you. Just stay calm."*

Then Moses raised his hand over the sea, and the Lord opened up a path through the water with a strong east wind.

So the people of Israel walked through the middle of the sea on dry ground, with walls of water on each side!

The Egyptians, with their horses and chariots, chased after the Israelites through the sea, but God twisted their chariot wheels, making them difficult to drive.

When the Israelites reached the other side, the Lord said to Moses, "Raise your hand over the sea again." When he did, the waters returned, and all the chariots and horses — the entire army of the Pharaoh who chased the Israelites into the sea — were drowned. Not a single one survived.



# MEN & WOMEN OF THE BIBLE: MOSES (Pt 5)

When the people of Israel saw the mighty power that the Lord had unleashed against the Egyptians, they were filled with awe before him. They put their faith in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

You and I have seen the mighty power of God in our lives. Let us worship and praise him for the mighty acts he has performed.

(Source: [http://www.sermons4kids.com/parting\\_the\\_red\\_sea.htm](http://www.sermons4kids.com/parting_the_red_sea.htm))

## VIDEO

Ten Commandments movie

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jo0JMs-evQU>

Prince of Egypt

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mUjC5ahSMrM>

## GOD GOES BEFORE US!

When the Israelites left Egypt, they didn't have any GPS or Waze to tell them where to go. Instead, the Lord went before them and led the way. How?

During the day, He was seen as a pillar of cloud. The pillar of cloud also protected the Israelites from the heat of the sun, especially in the middle of the desert.

During the night, He was seen as a pillar of fire. The pillar of fire provided warmth to the Israelites in the cold of the night.

God went ahead of the Israelites — His presence gave them direction, protection and comfort!

Today, wherever we are and whatever we do, God also goes before us. He will lead us, guide us, protect us and comfort us always!



# MEN & WOMEN OF THE BIBLE: MOSES (Pt 5)

## JESUS IS OUR DELIVERER

The Egyptians pursued the Israelites. They thought they had trapped them ... out in the desert with the Red Sea blocking their way. The Israelites thought they were goners.

But God opened a way through their biggest obstacle (the Red Sea) for them to pass through safely. And God also used that same obstacle to destroy their enemies (the Egyptians)!

When Jesus was on earth, the devil thought he could destroy him by getting him killed.

What he didn't expect was that God used the devil's weapon — death (after all, the devil's job is to steal, kill and destroy) — to destroy the curse of sin completely.

It's like the devil threw a slingshot, but the stone came back and hit him in his head!

Jesus' death on the cross opened the way for us through the waters of sin and death and destroyed the power of Satan over us!

We are free!

Jesus set us free!

We don't have to do anything except walk in the way He has opened for us!

Jesus is our deliverer!

Side note:

God told Moses to "lift up your rod and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it." (Exodus 14:16)

This is also a clue that God gave us back in the Old Testament — a picture of Jesus on the cross!







## ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

### SONG: How did Moses cross the Red Sea?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O7THqnY-uLO> (actions)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HboALKQxbNY>

### SONG: I will sing unto the Lord

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=59QeKBAvbDc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mx0JJOBMlp8>

### MEMORY VERSE

**Galatians 5:1** *It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.*

*Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.*

### MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE

Prepare 2 sets of the memory verse on pieces of paper (each word on separate paper; different colours for each set) — You can choose to use the whole verse or part of it, depending on your age group.

Scatter the words in the “Red Sea” (a section/ middle of the class).

Divide kids into 2 teams. Assign one of the paper colours to them (e.g. Red team, Blue team)

Each team’s representative takes turns to run to the “Red Sea” to take 1 piece of paper with their team colour and bring it back.

The aim is to collect the pieces of paper as fast as possible and form the memory verse in correct order. Some of the members can start arranging the verse while others are still running to get the paper.

### HUDDLE TIME

Break into small groups to share and pray for each other.



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# MEN & WOMEN OF THE BIBLE: RUTH (Pt 1)

HOOK



## STORY: RUTH 1

### INTRO

For the Jews, Ruth is the book that they read on Pentecost in their synagogues. Pentecost marks the giving of the Law at Mt Sinai (and later in Acts, it marks the coming of the Holy Spirit on the early church).

Ruth is a beautiful Old Testament historical book of how God works in mysterious ways, through our darkest, most bitter days, for our good.

Even more importantly, it illustrates Christ's great love for us and the redemption He purchased for us. We'll see more of this today and next few weeks.

### STORY

The story begins in the land of Bethlehem, in Judah, with Naomi, and her husband, Elimelech. They had two sons, named Mahlon and Chilion. Elimelech's family and friends all worshipped God.

Bethlehem was in the middle of a famine. Does anybody know what a famine is? A famine is when the land is SO dry that they are unable to grow any food!

Naomi and her husband didn't know what to do, so the family left the land of Bethlehem and moved to the land of Moab, where the people worshipped other gods.

But something horrible happened. Naomi's husband died. Naomi's sons married Moabite women, but after 10 years, both sons also died! Naomi, felt very small and very unimportant. Do you ever feel small or unimportant? When the famine was over, Naomi decided that she would go back to the land of Bethlehem. She said to her daughters-in-law, "Return to your own mother's house." After all, she had nothing to offer them — she had no more sons for them to marry ... just an uncertain future in a foreign land.

One of her daughters-in-laws (named Orpah) left, but the other clung to her and said, "Where you go, I go, your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me." Can you guess the name of this daughter-in-law? Her name was, Ruth.

So Naomi and Ruth set out for the land of Bethlehem. All of Naomi's friends were very excited to see her again. But Naomi told them, "Don't call me Naomi (which means "pleasant"). Call me Mara (which means "bitter"), because my life has become very bitter."



# MEN & WOMEN OF THE BIBLE: RUTH (Pt 1)

Indeed, after losing her husband and two sons in a foreign land, Naomi had every right to feel bitter about her life. But even though she did not know it, God never forsook her. He was always taking care of her and preparing a hope and a future for her.

## **BAD THINGS HAPPEN SOMETIMES ...**

First, there was a famine in Bethlehem. (Bethlehem means “House of Bread”, so it’s extra ironic that there was no bread).

Then Naomi lost her husband. Then not just one, but both her sons.

In those times, a woman without a husband or son is very vulnerable — she would have nothing, no one to protect her, no one to provide for her. She was far from her home, and all she had were two daughters-in-law from the foreign land in which she was living in.

No wonder she was bitter (“Mara”).

## **BUT GOD STILL WORKS FOR GOOD!**

Naomi was so bitter that she blamed God for bringing her back empty, for afflicting her, for bringing misfortune upon her.

But she failed to see that God was bringing something good out of all the losses and challenges. Through it, she met Ruth, who clung to her side even when she had nothing to offer her. And God was the One who broke the famine and opened the way home for Naomi.

Remember **Romans 8:28**? *“In all things, God works for the good of those who love Him and who are called according to His purposes.”*

## **RUTH PUT HER FAITH IN GOD**

Ruth didn’t have to stay with Naomi. She could have let Naomi travel back to Bethlehem alone. She left her own family, her people, her gods. She chose to put her faith in Naomi’s God even though she didn’t know Him yet. And God used Ruth for a very special purpose, as we will find out soon.

**TAKE-HOME:** Even when things are bitter, God is working out something sweet!



## ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

### WORKSHEETS

Puzzle: [https://www.jesus-without-language.net/wp-content/cache/page\\_enhanced/www.jesus-without-language.net//naomi-ruth-1-make//index.html\\_gzip](https://www.jesus-without-language.net/wp-content/cache/page_enhanced/www.jesus-without-language.net//naomi-ruth-1-make//index.html_gzip)

Colouring: <https://ministryspark.com/wp-content/uploads/19-Ruth-Shows-Love.pdf>,  
<https://coloringhome.com/coloring-page/21539?album=ruth-and-naomi-coloring-pages>

### MEMORY VERSE

**Romans 8:28** *"In all things, God works for the good of those who love Him and who are called according to His purposes."*

### REVISION QUIZ (older kids)

Ruth 1 Bible Trivia Countdown Video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GUDI2BmTV6U>

### HUDDLE TIME

Break into small groups to share and pray for each other.



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# MEN & WOMEN OF THE BIBLE: RUTH (Pt 2)

## HOOK

### COUNTING GAME

Ask kids to count the number of items in the picture. At the end, explain that the winner is randomly picked according to whoever the teacher favours.





## STORY: RUTH 2

Last week, we saw Ruth return to Bethlehem with her mother-in-law Naomi.

The famine had ended, and it was the beginning of the barley harvest.

As Ruth and Naomi had nothing to their name, Ruth asked Naomi if she could go to the barley fields and pick up any leftover grain that she was allowed to take. She could bring home the grain and they could grind it to make flour. That way Naomi and Ruth would have enough to eat.

(After the workers cut and bundled the barley stalks from the field, there would always be some stalks left behind. Picking up the leftover barley stalks was called “gleaning.”)

So Ruth went to a field and followed behind the workers harvesting the field. She “happened” to go to the field of a man called Boaz, who was actually a relative of Elimelek, Naomi’s late husband.

At that time, Boaz came to check on the field and his workers.

He noticed Ruth in the field and asked the head worker who she was. He heard how kind Ruth was to Naomi, staying with her after her husband died and leaving Moab to travel back to Bethlehem with her.

So Boaz told Ruth that he was very happy to hear how she took care of Naomi. He told her that she was always welcome to work in his field where she would be safe and that no one would bother her. He told Ruth that she could take her breaks and drink with his workers when she got thirsty.

At mealtime, Boaz made sure Ruth had enough bread and roasted grain to eat. She ate all she wanted and had some left over. Boaz even gave orders to his workers to let Ruth gather whatever she wanted, even if it’s from their sheaves (the bundles of barley). In fact, he told them to pull out some stalks from the bundles they had gathered and leave them for her to pick up. And he reminded them not to scold her at all!

Wow! What favour! Ruth just wanted permission to gather leftovers, the bits and pieces here and there. But she got so much more!

Ruth gleaned in the field until evening. She threshed the barley and got about 13 kg worth of grain (an ephah)! She carried it home, along with the leftover food from lunchtime, and Naomi was amazed.

“Where did you glean today? Where did you work? Blessed be the man who took notice of you!”

Ruth told Naomi that she worked in Boaz’s field.

“The Lord bless him!” Naomi said to her daughter-in-law. “He has not stopped showing his kindness to the living and the dead.” She added, “That man is our close relative; he is one of our family redeemers.”



# MEN & WOMEN OF THE BIBLE: RUTH (Pt 2)

According to Jewish law, a family redeemer was someone who would help his close relatives if they were in trouble. Naomi knew Boaz would take care of Ruth, so she encouraged Ruth to stay in his fields. So Ruth gathered grain until the barley harvest was finished. She also worked there through the end of the wheat harvest. And Ruth continued to live with Naomi, her mother-in-law.

## OVER AND ABOVE

Ruth just wanted permission to gather leftovers, the bits and pieces here and there, to make some food for Naomi and herself. But she got so much more!

She was given:

- Security
- Protection
- Food/Water
- Provision (extra grain to glean)

There would have been many other gleaners in the field, but Ruth found favour in Boaz's eyes, and that made all the difference.

When we have Jesus, we have His favour in our lives, and he gives us over and above all that we need. **Ephesians 3:20** *"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us ..."*

## FAMILY REDEEMER

According to Jewish law, a kinsman or family redeemer is someone who would help his close relatives if they were in trouble.

Naomi was bitter and thought she had no one and nothing left in this world. But she suddenly realised that her husband's relative could help take care of her and Ruth.

That's when she exclaimed, "The Lord has not stopped showing his kindness to the living and the dead."

We will learn more about the family redeemer in the next few lessons.

**TAKE-HOME:** Jesus' favour is on me!





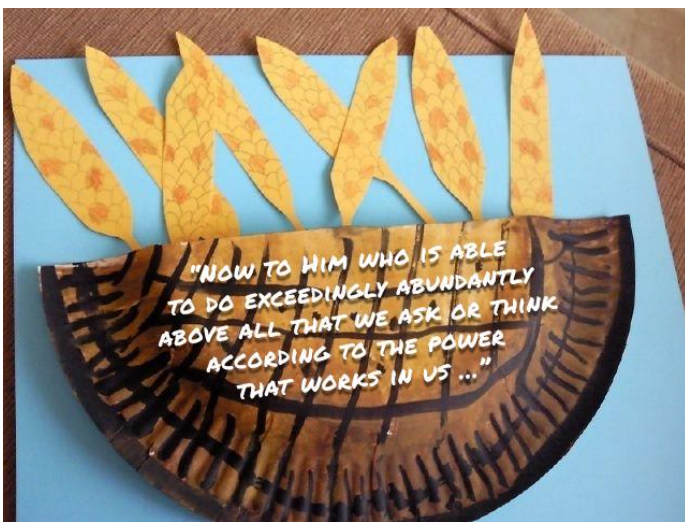
## ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

### MEMORY VERSE

**Ephesians 3:20** *"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us ..."*

### RUTH 2-RELATED CRAFT

Gleaning baskets



Bookmark: <https://www.jesus-without-language.net/ruth-ruth-2-make-2/>

### REVISION QUIZ (older kids)

Ruth 2 Bible Trivia Countdown Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4z8Vp1s7NIY>

### HUDDLE TIME

Break into small groups to share and pray for each other.



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# MEN & WOMEN OF THE BIBLE: RUTH (Pt 2)

HOOK



## STORY: RUTH 3

### READ

Ruth 3 (for older kids)

Last week, we saw Ruth “happen” to glean in a field of a man named Boaz.

Boaz was a relative of her father-in-law, Naomi’s late husband.

The name Boaz probably referred to quickness or strength. He was a man of great wealth. But besides referring to monetary strength, the Hebrew name probably meant that he was gifted in other ways.

And Ruth found favour in Boaz’s eyes for he had heard about Ruth’s goodness to her mother-in-law. What were some of the blessings she received?

*Security, protection, food/water, provision (extra grain to glean)*

When Naomi found out that Ruth had been gleaning in Boaz’s field, she started thinking ...

Naomi considered Ruth as her daughter, so she wanted to make sure she’d be well taken care of, even though she was a foreigner. Naomi knew Boaz was a relative, and she could see that Boaz would be a good husband for Ruth.

The law of God said that when a young woman became a widow, the man who was the nearest relative of her dead husband — the family-redeemer — should marry the widow and buy back any land that had belonged to her. This was God’s way of ensuring that widows are taken care of and that the land would always be kept in the same family.

So Naomi instructed Ruth what to do, according to the customs of the day. She told her to wash, put on perfume and dress in her best clothes and to go down to the threshing floor, where Boaz would be winnowing barley.

Usually, all of the workers would sleep near the grain so that no one would steal it. Naomi told Ruth to wait until they had all finished eating and drinking and went to sleep. And then to go quietly to where Boaz laid, uncover his feet and lie down. In the culture of the time, that was a way for Ruth to show Boaz that she wanted to marry him.

Ruth did everything Naomi told her to. She waited until everyone was asleep and then laid down at Boaz’ feet. When Boaz woke up at midnight, he found Ruth at his feet. “I am your servant Ruth,” she said. “Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a guardian-redeemer of our family (family-redeemer).”

Boaz was an older man and was flattered that Ruth had chosen him, instead of someone younger or richer. He praised her as a woman of noble character, and he said that he was willing to marry her.



## MEN & WOMEN OF THE BIBLE: RUTH (Pt 2)

However, there was a small problem. There was another relative of Naomi's who was closer than Boaz and had greater legal right to marry Ruth. So Boaz had to check with that closer relative first.

Boaz told Ruth to lie there until morning. The next day, he gave her six measures of barley, wrapped in her shawl, and she went home to tell Naomi what happened.

Naomi then told Ruth, "Wait, my daughter, until you find out what happens. For the man will not rest until the matter is settled today."

### COVERED BY HIS PROTECTION

According to Jewish law, a kinsman or family redeemer is someone who would help his close relatives if they were in trouble. For example, when a young woman became a widow, the man who was the nearest relative of her dead husband — the family-redeemer — should marry the widow and buy back any land that had belonged to her. This was God's way of ensuring that widows are taken care of and that the land would always be kept in the same family.

*"Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a guardian-redeemer of our family (family-redeemer)."*

By asking Boaz to spread his garment over her, Ruth was asking him to redeem her as his wife and cover her with his protection.

When we are in Jesus, He covers us with His protection and His love.

**Psalm 91:4** *He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.*

### COVERED BY HIS REDEMPTION

Back in the Garden of Eden, when Adam and Eve disobeyed God, their eyes were open and they realised they were naked. They tried to sew fig leaves — a picture of self-effort — and cover themselves. But the fig leaves could not hide their sin. God had to make garments of skin — an animal was sacrificed — to clothe and cover them.

Jesus is our family-redeemer — He was the ultimate sacrificial Lamb who came to be sacrificed to take away all our sin and cover us with cloaks of righteousness.

**Isaiah 61:10** *I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness.*



# MEN & WOMEN OF THE BIBLE: RUTH (Pt 2)

## **WAIT AND REST**

Even though there was still the problem of a “closer relative” Naomi told Ruth, *“Wait, my daughter, until you find out what happens. For the man will not rest until the matter is settled today.”*

Naomi had confidence that Boaz would do whatever he said he would. So all Ruth had to do is to rest and wait, while Boaz did the work. We’ll find out what he did next Sun!

Sometimes we may not see the results we want immediately. But we can rest and know that Jesus is working all things for good for us.

**TAKE-HOME:** We can rest in Jesus!



## ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

### MEMORY VERSE

**Ephesians 3:20** *"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us ..."*

### RUTH 3-RELATED CRAFT

E.g. a blanket or wings craft with the memory verse:

**Psalms 91:4** *He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge.*

### REVISION QUIZ (older kids)

Ruth 3 Bible Trivia Countdown Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJ1bcF0KVZQ>

### HUDDLE TIME

Break into small groups to share and pray for each other.



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# MEN & WOMEN OF THE BIBLE: RUTH (Pt 4)

HOOK



## STORY: RUTH 3

### READ

Ruth 4 (for older kids)

Last week, we ended the story with Boaz agreeing to marry Ruth as her kinsman/family-redeemer.

There was one obstacle though. Do you remember what? There was a closer relative who could redeem Ruth.

But Boaz said he will handle the matter. So the next day, he went to the city gate and sat there until he saw the close relative passing by. Boaz called out to him and gathered 10 old men who were leaders of the city. Everyone sat down together.

Boaz told the close relative, "Naomi has come back from the country of Moab. She wants to sell the piece of land that belonged to our relative Elimelech. Since you are the closer relative to Naomi, you have the first right to buy the land. If you don't want to buy it, tell me. I am the only person after you who can buy back the land. If you don't buy it back, I will."

The close relative said, "I will buy back the land."

Then Boaz said, "When you buy the land from Naomi, you must marry Ruth, the dead man's wife. She is the woman from Moab. That way, the land will stay in her dead husband's family."

The close relative answered, "Then I can't buy back the land. If I did, I might lose what I can pass on to my own sons. I cannot buy the land back. So you buy it yourself."

Long ago in Israel when people traded or bought back something, one person took off his sandal and gave it to the other person. This was their proof of purchase.

So the close relative he took off his sandal and handed it to Boaz in front of all the elders as witnesses.

So all the people and elders who were at the city gate blessed Ruth — a Moabite, a foreigner, a non-Jew — and Boaz's family.

Boaz took Ruth and married her. The Lord let her become pregnant, and she gave birth to a son. They called him Obed.

Naomi's friends all congratulated Naomi. "Praise the Lord who gave you this grandson. And may he become famous in Israel. He will give you new life. And he will take care of you in your old age. This happened because of your daughter-in-law. She loves you. And she is better for you than seven sons. She has given birth to your grandson."





# MEN & WOMEN OF THE BIBLE: RUTH (Pt 4)

When Naomi returned to Bethlehem, she asked everyone to call her Mara. Do you remember what that means? Bitter

Now she was no longer empty, but full. Naomi took the boy, held him in her arms and cared for him.

What about Ruth? Ruth was a widow, a foreigner, a non-Jew. But because she put her faith in the God of Naomi ("Your God will be my God"), she found a wonderful restoration through Boaz and was given a special honour in the history of Israel.

Her son, Obed, grew up and had a son named Jesse. Do you know who Jesse was? Jesse was the father of David. Yes, King David. And King David's great great great great ... grandson was a man called ... Jesus.

God took Ruth and grafted her into Jesus' family tree in a very special love story of redemption.

## KINSMAN/FAMILY REDEEMER

According to Jewish law, a kinsman or family redeemer is someone who would help his close relatives if they were in trouble. For example, when a young woman became a widow, the man who was the nearest relative of her dead husband — the family-redeemer — should marry the widow and buy back any land that had belonged to her. This was God's way of ensuring that widows are taken care of and that the land would always be kept in the same family.

There are 3 general conditions for someone to be a kinsman/family redeemer.

The person had to be:

- A **close** relative
- **Able** to redeem (with the means to support and provide for the family)
- **Willing** to redeem

Boaz fulfilled all 3 conditions ... but there was a closer relative.

The other relative was **closer** and **able** to redeem ... however, he had his own family, so he was **NOT willing** to redeem.

So this other relative gave up his right to redeem by taking off his right sandal and giving it to Boaz, opening the way for Boaz to redeem Naomi and Ruth.



# MEN & WOMEN OF THE BIBLE: RUTH (Pt 4)

## OUR KINSMAN/FAMILY REDEEMER

When Ruth was redeemed by Boaz, she became the great-grandmother of King David, from whom Jesus came, many, many generations later.

Just as Ruth was redeemed from a desolate life, where she had nothing, we were redeemed from a life of sin and sorrow by our Kinsman Redeemer — Jesus.

Jesus fulfilled all the 3 conditions of a Kinsman Redeemer. He:

- Was a **close** relative: God became man and walked among us
- Was **able** to redeem: Jesus was perfect and without sin
- And most importantly, was **willing** to redeem us!

**Ephesians 1:7** *In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.*

**TAKE-HOME:** Jesus has redeemed me!



## ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

**RUTH 3-RELATED CRAFT**

with the words: Thank you Jesus for redeeming me!

e.g. Paper shoe: <http://www.jesus-without-language.net/boaz-ruth-4-make-2/>

Bead sandals

**REVISION QUIZ** (older kids)

Ruth 4 Bible Trivia Countdown Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=imYirnNfQe8>

**HUDDLE TIME**

Break into small groups to share and pray for each other. Remind kids that: Jesus redeemed me!



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# MEN & WOMEN OF THE BIBLE: JOSEPH

## HOOK

### ILLUSTRATION

Thai boys trapped in cave. Seemed hopeless and dark. But after 9 long days, suddenly help arrived. Even though boys were still trapped for a few more days, they had hope because the rescuers were with them.

Netflix clip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vCRD3mJdG04>

**STORY: (Genesis 37-50)**

It's easy to be happy when everything is going well, right? If the sun is shining, your parents get you the newest toy, your teachers give you good grades ... we can all be positive and happy. But what if it's dark and dreary? What if your parents seem to be taking your brothers' side? What if your teachers are punishing you for something you didn't do? Can you still have a happy outlook on life? Can you still have hope?

Well, one young boy did. His name was Joseph.

Joseph seemed to have everything going against him. His own brothers hated him. Joseph was sold by his own brothers to be a slave in Egypt. His brothers lied to his father that he had died.

Even as a slave, Joseph served faithfully in his master Potiphar's house. But was unfairly accused by Potiphar's wife and thrown into prison.

In prison, Joseph was made the head prisoner. One day, the king's butler was thrown into prison too. The butler had a dream he couldn't understand. Joseph interpreted the dream for him, and asked the butler to help get him out of prison. But the butler forgot about him ... for a whole two years!

But Joseph didn't lose hope. Joseph knew who was with him. Through it all, the Bible records repeatedly, that *"the Lord was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did."* (Genesis 39:3, 21, 23)

And in one day, God transported Joseph from prisoner to Prime Minister over Egypt. Everything he lost was restored to him many times over. He was eventually also reconciled with his family, yes, even those brothers who tried to kill him.

Knowing that God was the one who was with him every step of the way, Joseph could forgive his brothers and forgive them, saying, *"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives."* (Gen 50:20)



# MEN & WOMEN OF THE BIBLE: JOSEPH

## **JESUS, OUR BROTHER**

Jesus understood what Joseph was going through. He also went through it Himself.

He was rejected by His own brothers. He was betrayed by His friend. He was falsely accused, beaten and crucified for other people's sins.

And because of the sacrifice of our incredible Jesus, everything we have lost because of sin has been restored to us at the divine exchange on the cross. Whatever sin took away from us — love, joy, peace, patience, health, wealth etc — Jesus restored on the Cross in exchange for His blood.

So today, no matter what circumstances we are going through, we, too, can declare, *"The Lord is with me and gives me success in whatever I do."*

**TAKE-HOME:** Jesus is with me and gives me success in whatever I do!



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# MEN & WOMEN OF THE BIBLE: JOSEPH

## ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

### JOSEPH-RELATED CRAFT

with the words: Jesus is with me and gives me success in whatever I do!

### HUDDLE TIME

Break into small groups to share and pray for each other. Remind kids that: Jesus is with me!